Gains of GATT Negotiations

731. SHRIMATI VEEN A VERM A:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE' be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that India's largest gain from GATT negotiations has come from the agreement on trade in services;

(b) if so, the expected earning in terms of billion-dollars from this agreement during the first five years; and

(c) what are the main components, of the services under contemplation, indicating the item-wise earning expected?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India's interest in the negotiations on services was primarily in the delivery of services through the modality of movement of natural persons. While some of our trading partners had made satisfactory offers, the offers of our other major trading partners were less than satisfactory. Therefore, we pressed for a Ministerial decision on establishing a negotiating group on further negotiations on movement of natural persons. The negotiating group will meet within one month of the Ministerial decision and conclude its negotiations by the end of six months after the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organisation. A final judgement on the market access package in services will have to await the conclusion of these negotiations.

Committee to Review Procedure for Imports and Exports

732. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government recently set up a Committee to review the existing procedures and documentation concerning imports and exports and to evolve a simplified comprehensive and transparent system which would be easy to administer as well as to comply with;

(b) if so, the composition of this Committee with its terms of reference;

(c) whether any time-limit has been laid down for the purpose; and

(d) if so, by when Government expect to get the report from the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) COMPOSITION

Chairman:

Dr. Y. Veriugopal Reddy, Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Commerce.

Members:
Ministry of Commerce

1. Shri J.S. Gill. Joint Secretary • •
2. Dr. R.K. Dhawan, Addl. \ DGFT

IIFT

3. Professor Sehgal. *Trade*

& Industry

4. President, FIEO

5. Director General, CII

Reserve Bank of India

6. Nominee of the RBI.

Ministry of Finance

7. A nominee of Secretary, Department of Revenue
8. A nominee of Chief Economic Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs

Member-Secretary

9. Ms. L.M. Vias, Export Commissioner